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BOOK REVIEWS AND NOTICES

Frederick William Maitland. By H. A. L. FISHER. Cambridge: The University Press, 1910. 8vo, pp. 179.

This account of Maitland's life and work, which the writer modestly calls "a biographical sketch," cannot fail to interest the economic student. Maitland was primarily a great historian but he did not revolutionize the history of English law without opening up new and luminous pathways into England's social and economic history. And it is not so much the matter of Maitland's work, rare as it is, but rather the method and manner of it, by which the student profits most. There is probably no sincere student of economic history today, either English or American, who does not feel under conscious obligation to Maitland's pioneering spirit, and his "gift and passion" for work. "It is so pleasant to build theories; so painful to discover facts. Maitland was strong enough to resist the temptation to premature theorizing about the beginnings of human society. . . . He knew exactly what required to be done and gallantly faced long hours of unremunerative drudgery in the sure and exultant faith that the end was worth the labor."

It is not necessary to review here the events of Maitland's life. Of special interest, however, is the fact that at Cambridge where he was a classmate and competitor for class honors with William Cunningham, he was fortunate in coming under the influence of Henry Sidgwick, whom he regarded as a "supremely great teacher." It was the "idle whim of an idle undergraduate" that first led him into Sidgwick's lecture-room, but as the terms went by, the devoted group who gathered there came, as Maitland later said, "to think of lecture time as the best time we had in Cambridge; and some of us looking back now [after Sidgwick's death] can say that it was in a very true sense the best time that we have had in our lives. . . . The matter of the lectures, the theories, and the arguments might be forgotten; but the method remained, as an ideal—an unattainable ideal perhaps, but a model of perfect work."

Failing to obtain a fellowship at Trinity, Maitland left Cambridge and, following the course marked out by family tradition, became a barrister at Lincoln's Inn. There, we are told, he began to have misgivings about a profession which might cause him to give up the studious reading which had "become very dear" to him, but he found time to give a course of "valuable" lectures in political economy to a class of working-men. While there, too, the friendship with Sir Frederick Pollock began "which lasted in unbroken intimacy and frequent intellectual communion to the end."

It was, however, not Pollock but Vinogradoff of Oxford, then a Russian student only temporarily in England, from whom Maitland received the inspiration which led him to plunge into "that matchless collection of documents for the legal and social history of the Middle Ages, which England had continuously preserved and continuously neglected." Within a year Maitland had published, with a dedication to Paul Vinogradoff, a small volume, *Pleas of the Crown for*

the County of Gloucester, which promised a rich harvest of future work. In that same epochal year he was recalled to Cambridge and gave up the bar.

His brilliant career from that time, the wonderful quantity and quality of the work which he accomplished in spite of the heavy handicap laid on him by ill-health, his academic honors and distinctions, his participation in college and university affairs, his friendship with Lord Acton which led to the *Cambridge Modern History*, his interest in the work of his pupil and disciple Mary Bateson, who under his direction became, as Mr. Fisher rightly says, "one of the best mediaevalists in England," and finally the dreary winters of exile so cheerfully borne, need not be reviewed here. The story is all admirably told, with illustrations from Maitland's characteristic correspondence, in the present volume.

Some words which Maitland wrote of Mary Bateson after her tragic early death—"the hunger and thirst for knowledge, the keen delight in the chase, the good-humoured willingness to admit that the scent was false, the eager desire to get on with the work, the cheerful resolution to go back and begin again, the broad good sense and the unaffected modesty"—apply so well to his own work that it seemed proper to quote them here. After all, it was the modesty of which he speaks which was perhaps Maitland's most characteristic quality and it had a very real influence on his work. "No one was more entirely free from self-importance or from any desire to defend, after they had become untenable, positions which he had once been inclined to maintain. He possessed a gift which is far rarer than it is generally supposed to be and is often very imperfectly possessed by learned men, an intense and disinterested passion for truth, a passion so pure that he would speak with genuine enthusiasm of such criticism of his own work as he judged to be well founded and to constitute a positive addition to knowledge."

EDITH ABBOTT

CHICAGO SCHOOL OF CIVICS AND PHILANTHROPY

Corporation Finance. By WILLIAM H. LOUGH, JR. Modern Business, Vol. IV. New York: Alexander Hamilton Institute, 1909. 8vo, pp. xix+480. \$3.50.

We can heartily agree with the author's declaration that the recent and rapid spread of the corporate form of organization has made it desirable that every man, for his own protection and advancement, should have some knowledge of the "principles and methods governing the promotion, organization, and management of modern corporations" to the exposition of which this volume is devoted. The book is "intended primarily for the information and guidance of business men of all stations and degrees," but it is also expected to prove useful to brokers, lawyers, bankers, and accountants. We would also add that anyone at all familiar with the widespread ignorance of the subject among college students, even at the period of their graduation, must have become convinced that the teaching of such a subject in our colleges might contribute quite as much to the future happiness and well-being of the student as do many of the subjects now offered.

In this volume the author first takes up the elements of corporation law, including the nature, forms, legal status, and organization of corporations. There